

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A tolerance ring, comprising:
a substantially cylindrical base portion having a first radius;
a plurality of contacting portions, each having
at least one central region that reaches a second radius,
at least two circumferential transition regions each being circumferentially adjacent to the central region and spanning from said first radius substantially to said second radius over a circumferential transition length, and
at least two axial transition regions each being axially adjacent to the central region and spanning from said first radius substantially to said second radius over an axial transition length, said axial transition length being greater than said circumferential transition length,

wherein said contacting portions each have an overall axial length and an overall circumferential width, and the ratio of said axial transition length to said overall axial length is more than the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width, but less than 250 times the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width.

2. (Currently amended) The tolerance ring of claim 1, having a material thickness and wherein said axial transition regions have a profile including at least one curve spanning the axial transition length and having a finite ~~with a~~ radius of curvature that is less than the first radius but of at least 2.5 times said ~~material~~ thickness.

3. (Currently amended) The tolerance ring of claim 1, ~~wherein said contacting portions each have an overall axial length and an overall circumferential width, and the ratio of~~

~~said axial transition length to said overall axial length is more than the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width, but less than 250 times the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width~~
each of the at least two axial transition regions includes a curved profile that spans the axial transition length, the curved profile being convex as viewed from within the tolerance ring and concave as viewed from outside the tolerance ring.

4. (Currently amended) The tolerance ring of claim 1, wherein ~~said contacting portions each have an overall circumferential width, and~~ the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width is less than or equal to 0.4.

5. (Currently amended) An actuator arm assembly for an information storage device, comprising:

an actuator arm; and

an actuator pivot bearing; and

a tolerance ring retaining the actuator pivot bearing relative to the actuator arm, wherein the tolerance ring comprises;

a substantially cylindrical base portion having a first radius; and

a plurality of contacting portions, each having

at least one central region that reaches a second radius,

at least two circumferential transition regions each being circumferentially adjacent to the central region and spanning from said first radius substantially to said second radius over a circumferential transition length, and

at least two axial transition regions each being axially adjacent to the central region and spanning from said first radius substantially to said second radius over an axial transition length, said axial transition length being greater than said circumferential transition length,

wherein said contacting portions each have an overall axial length and an overall circumferential width, and the ratio of said axial transition length to said

overall axial length is more than the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width, but less than 250 times the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width.

6. (Currently amended) The actuator arm assembly of claim 5, wherein said ~~contacting portions each have an overall axial length and an overall circumferential width, and the ratio of said axial transition length to said overall axial length is more than the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width, but less than 250 times the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width~~ each of the at least two axial transition regions includes a curved profile that spans the axial transition length, the curved profile being convex as viewed from within the tolerance ring and concave as viewed from outside the tolerance ring.

7. (Currently amended) The actuator arm assembly of claim 5, wherein said ~~contacting portions each have an overall circumferential width, and~~ the ratio of said circumferential transition length to said overall circumferential width is less than or equal to 0.4.

8. (Currently amended) The actuator arm assembly of claim 5, wherein said tolerance ring has a material thickness and wherein said axial transition regions have a profile including at least one curve spanning the axial transition length and having a finite with a radius of curvature that is less than the first radius but of at least 2.5 times said material thickness.

9-15 (Canceled).